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EXpenditures on PERSONAL HEALTH CARE IN CANADA

1957 - 1969



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EXPENDITURES ON PERSONAL HEALTH CARE IN CANADA 1957 - 1969

Research and Statistics Directorate

Published by authority of
the Honourable John Munro
Minister of National Health and Welfare

FOREWORD

This publication measures expenditures on certain forms of personal health care in Canada from 1957 to 1967 and shows preliminary estimates for 1968 and 1969. Tables for each province will be shown in a separate publication. Another study will show expenditures on personal health care in Canada and in some other countries.

We acknowledge with thanks the kind assistance of various government departments and officials of professional organizations.

Data were contributed by various officers of the Health Research Division. Walter Bluger prepared the tables. The text was written by Arthur F. Smith and William A. Mennie.



John E. Osborne, Director,
Research and Statistics.

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Introduction

The following review of trends in personal health care expenditures in Canada covers the four principal components: hospital services, physicians' services, dentists' services and prescribed drugs.⁽¹⁾ These are estimated to represent at least 90 per cent of all personal health care expenditures; that is to say - of all expenditures on the direct provision of health services to individuals. Not counted are expenditures on community public health, professional training and research, and outlays for construction of health facilities.

Combined Expenditures

Expenditures for hospital care, physicians, dentists, and prescribed drugs rose from \$1.0 billion in 1957 to \$3.9 billion in 1969 (Table 1). There were increases in every intervening year, their amount ranging from \$98 million (1958) to \$448 million (1969).

Year-to-year percentage increases from 1957 to 1969 were never below 8 per cent. In the years from 1964 to 1968 the rate of increase climbed steadily, from 10.0 per cent to 14.8 per cent, the highest rate on record. In 1969 the rise over the previous year was lower - 12.9 per cent (Table 2), but remained above the average annual rate of increase over the twelve year period - 11.7 per cent per annum.

The amount spent per person each year⁽²⁾ almost tripled between 1957 and 1969, rising from \$63 to \$186. The largest rise in the per person figure occurred between 1967 and 1968, an increase of \$19.17. (Table 3).

Expenditures are presented in Table 4 as percentages of the Gross National Product.⁽³⁾ Their total rose continuously from 3.18 per cent in 1957 to 5.03 in 1969. Putting it another way, one observes that Canada spent one of every twenty dollars on these four components of personal health care in 1969 but only one in every thirty-one in 1957.

(1) Excluded from this study are services provided by chiropractors, osteopaths, private nurses, optometrists and podiatrists, as well as eyeglasses, appliances, non-prescribed drugs, and nursing home care.

(2) Calculations are based on the mid-year (July 1) populations, which are given in Table 8.

(3) Calculations here are based on the Gross National Product at Market Prices, incorporating the revisions to the historical series made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1969; figures are given in Table 8.

Rises in health-care expenditures have been caused by price and wage increases, growth of population, qualitative changes in goods and services resulting from advances in medicine, and greater use of health services. This greater use generally accompanies rising personal income, greater availability of health services regardless of income, and increases in the proportion of people with insurance against the cost of health services.

Hospital Care

Hospital care expenditures more than quadrupled from \$0.6 billion in 1957 to \$2.5 billion in 1969 and moved from 56 per cent of the total to 64 per cent in 1969. Thus hospital care absorbed a steadily increasing share of expenditures in the personal health care sector. Expressed as a percentage of Gross National Product, the share of hospitals moved up from 1.78 per cent to 3.22 per cent.

During the early years of the Hospital Insurance Program which was implemented in five provinces in 1958, the yearly percentage increase of hospital costs was around 15 per cent. From 1961 until 1965 percentage gains were about 11 per cent, but moved up to the 14 to 16 per cent level again from 1966 to 1968. The preliminary data for 1969 indicate an increase of 13.4 per cent over 1968.

The bulk of hospital care expenditures are in the general and allied special hospitals covered by hospital insurance, and this group has been the fastest rising element in the hospital care picture. Aggregate expenditures nearly quintupled over the twelve-year period and were just over \$2 billion in 1969. The pattern of increase has been similar to that for the whole hospital group.

Mental hospital expenditures have quadrupled over the twelve-year period, totalling \$351 million to 1969. During the early years of hospital insurance, the mental hospital group lagged behind the general and allied special hospitals. From 1963 onward however, until 1967, the percentage increase in mental hospital expenditures was higher each year (except 1966) than for general and allied special hospitals.

Expenditures of federal hospitals have only doubled over the period. Tuberculosis sanatoria have actually experienced a decline in aggregate expenditure over the period. In the case of both the federal hospitals and the tuberculosis sanatoria there has been a substantial drop in the number of beds in use.

Several factors account for the relatively large increase in hospital expenditures: hospital salaries have been rising more rapidly than salaries in other sectors of the labour force; a greater proportion of skilled people are being employed by hospitals and the amount of labour used has been increasing, which is borne out by the growing number

of paid hours of work per patient day. These changes in the cost, type and amount of labour input and the changing procedures in the practice of medicine are among the factors accounting for the comparatively high rate of increase in hospital expenditures.

Physicians' Services

Expenditures for physicians' services rose from \$272 million in 1957 to \$910 million in 1969⁽¹⁾. The amount increased every year, but the estimated rise between 1968 and 1969, \$122 million, was the largest. The year-to-year percentage increase between 1968 and 1969 was also the largest during the period, amounting to 15.5 per cent. In per capita terms, the expenditure rose from \$16.30 to \$43.15 over the 1957 to 1969 period; and these expenditures increased as a percentage of the Gross National Product from 0.83 to 1.17 over the same period.

Annual increases in the amount expended for physicians' services until 1966 were between 9 and 11 per cent (with some irregularity because of the strike in Saskatchewan in 1962), and between 13 and 15 per cent since 1966. The average for the period 1964 to 1969 was 12.6 per cent per year. The estimate for 1969 is 31 per cent above the 1967 figure.

Rises in physicians' fee rates account for part of the expenditure increase. Other factors are the greater number of physicians, the shift of people from rural areas to cities where they have easier access to medical care, and the rapid expansion of medical-insurance coverage. These factors tend to increase the amount of medical care; but qualitative changes, such as the increasing specialization of physicians, greater use of diagnostic and certain other procedures, and changes in practice due to advances in the science of medicine also affect the cost of physicians' services.

Dentists' Services

The amount spent on dentists' services increased from \$85 million in 1957 to \$231 million in 1969, having risen in every intervening year. The largest increase in a single year, \$27 million, occurred between 1967 and 1968. The year-to-year percentage increase ranged from 4.1, between 1961 and 1962, and 14.2, between 1967 and 1968. The per capita expenditure on dental services slightly more than doubled over the period from \$5.10 in 1967 to \$10.97 in 1969. The percentage that expenditures for dental services were of the Gross National Product rose from 0.26 in 1957 to 0.29 in 1960, and remained constant at about 0.30 throughout the sixties.

(1) These represent earnings by physicians in private practice, including earnings for services performed in hospitals. Payments by hospitals to physicians in their employ are included as part of hospital expenditures.

Annual increases of expenditures for dentists' services varied between 4 and 14 per cent, with an average of 9.4 per cent, for 1964 - 1969. Expenditures in dollars per person during the period rose by 7.5 per cent per year on the average, while the component of the Consumers' Price Index for dental care rose by 6.4 per cent per year. The addition of fluoride to drinking water has reduced tooth decay, markedly in some areas, but its impact on the nation as a whole has yet to be felt. Restoration of teeth through fillings, treatment of the gums and supporting tissues, and the construction of bridges and dentures, still constitute the bulk of dental practice.

Prescribed Drugs

The amount spent on prescribed drugs purchased from retail drugs stores amounted to \$103 million in 1957 and \$270 million in 1969⁽¹⁾. The largest single-year increase apparently occurred between 1964 and 1965, when the reported figure shows an increase of \$29 million.

The annual changes in prescription sales of pharmacies are somewhat erratic; the estimates for earlier years were somewhat rough. The average annual rise between 1965 and 1969 was 7.8 per cent. Allowance for population growth leaves a little under 6 per cent mean annual increase in prescription drug expenditure. This results mainly from greater use of drugs and from physicians' prescribing new drugs, which tend to be more costly than those they replace (because the price of a new drug tends to fall after it has become established on the market); thus the component of the Consumers' Price Index for prescriptions, which is based on a fixed and unchanging list of drugs, and therefore of established drugs, has varied relatively little over the years.

(1) Drugs supplied in hospitals are included as part of hospital expenditures.

TABLE 1 (a) CANADA 1957 - 1969,
EXPENDITURE ON PERSONAL HEALTH CARE,
IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

Year	General and Allied Special (b)	Hospital Services			Physicians' Services (d)	Dentists' Services (d)	Prescribed Drugs (e)	Total
		General Mental	Tuber- culosis (c)	Government of Canada				
				All Hospitals				
1957	422,913	87,499	31,657	45,301	587,370	271,795	85,008	103,230
1958	462,305	99,007	30,880	48,416	640,608	301,337	90,505	112,438
1959	543,728	111,600	30,043	50,255	735,626	325,689	98,966	130,187
1960	640,587	121,794	31,315	53,877	847,573	355,014	109,644	131,093
1961	722,057	134,882	28,184	63,891	949,014	388,304	116,730	133,578
1962	811,848	144,419	27,600	70,314	1,054,181	406,075	121,491	141,031
1963	909,762	163,049	28,294	73,782	1,174,887	453,395	136,946	156,628
1964	1,015,148	182,064	26,204	76,812	1,300,228	495,657	147,824	170,914
1965	1,144,479	211,605	26,044	79,788	1,461,916	545,056	160,062	200,017
1966	1,319,048	241,793	25,855	82,072	1,668,768	605,200	176,402	214,646
1967	1,523,035	283,875	26,037	83,349	1,916,296	686,189	187,166	239,478
1968 (f)	1,779,154	319,765	27,042	90,443	2,216,404	788,089	213,739	258,228
1969 (f)	2,036,814	350,890	29,116	96,291	2,513,111	910,000	231,450	270,106

(a) Excludes certain professional services (such as chiropractors, osteopaths, private nurses, optometrists, and podiatrists), eyeglasses and appliances, non-prescribed drugs, public health activities, nursing home care, new construction, and education and research outside hospitals; excludes hospitals of the Department of National Defence 1957 - 1960.

(b) Includes general, maternity, chronic, and convalescent hospitals; excludes mental institutions and tuberculosis sanatoria, as well as all hospitals of the government of Canada.

(c) Excludes hospitals of the government of Canada.

(d) Excludes full-time hospital staff and those physicians engaged primarily in administration, teaching, research, public health, and industrial medicine.

(e) Sold by retail pharmacies only.

(f) Preliminary estimates, except data for "Physicians' Services" for 1968, which are final.

SOURCE: Research and Statistics Directorate, Department of National Health and Welfare.

TABLE 2
EXPENDITURE ON PERSONAL HEALTH CARE, (a) CANADA, 1958 - 1969,
PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER PRECEDING YEAR

Year	Hospital Services				Physicians' Services (d)	Dentists' Services (d)	Prescribed Drugs (e)	Total
	General and Allied Special (b)	Mental	Tubercu- losis (c)	Government of Canada				
1958	9.3	13.2	- 2.5	6.9	9.1	10.9	6.5	9.3
1959	17.6	12.7	- 2.7	3.8	14.8	8.1	9.3	12.7
1960	17.8	9.1	4.2	7.2	15.2	9.0	10.8	- 0.7
1961	12.7	10.7	-10.0	18.6	12.0	9.4	6.5	11.8
1962	12.4	7.1	- 2.1	10.1	11.1	4.6	4.1	10.0
1963	12.1	12.9	2.5	4.9	11.5	11.7	12.7	11.1
1964	11.6	11.7	- 7.4	4.1	10.7	9.3	7.9	9.1
1965	12.7	16.2	- 0.6	3.9	12.4	10.0	8.3	10.0
1966	15.3	14.3	- 0.7	2.9	14.1	11.0	10.2	11.6
1967	15.5	17.4	0.7	1.6	14.8	13.4	6.1	12.6
1968 (f)	16.8	12.6	3.9	8.5	15.7	14.9	14.2	13.7
1969 (f)	14.5	9.7	7.7	6.5	13.4	15.5	8.3	14.8
							4.6	12.9

(see footnotes on Table 1)

TABLE 3
EXPENDITURES ON PERSONAL HEALTH CARE, (a) CANADA, 1957 - 1969,
DOLLARS PER PERSON

Year	Hospital Services				Physicians' Services (d)	Dentists' Services (d)	Prescribed Drugs (e)	Total
	General and Allied Special (d)	Mental	Tuber- culosis (c)	Government of Canada				
1957	25.36	5.25	1.90	2.72	35.22	16.30	5.10	6.19
1958	27.00	5.78	1.80	2.83	37.42	17.60	5.29	6.57
1959	31.03	6.37	1.71	2.87	41.98	18.59	5.65	7.43
1960	35.77	6.80	1.75	3.01	47.33	19.82	6.12	7.32
1961	39.52	7.38	1.54	3.50	51.94	21.25	6.39	7.31
1962	43.61	7.76	1.48	3.78	56.63	21.82	6.53	7.58
1963	47.97	8.60	1.49	3.89	61.95	23.91	7.22	8.26
1964	52.53	9.42	1.36	3.97	67.28	25.65	7.65	8.84
1965	58.16	10.75	1.32	4.05	74.29	27.70	8.13	10.16
1966	65.79	12.06	1.29	4.09	83.23	30.18	8.80	10.71
1967	74.51	13.89	1.27	4.08	93.75	33.57	9.16	11.72
1968 (f)	85.65	15.39	1.30	4.35	106.70	37.94	10.29	12.43
1969 (f)	96.58	16.64	1.38	4.57	119.17	43.15	10.97	12.81

(see footnotes on Table 1)

TABLE 4

EXPENDITURE ON PERSONAL HEALTH CARE, (a) CANADA, 1957 - 1969,
PERCENTAGE OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AT MARKET PRICES

Year	Hospital Services				Physicians' Services (d)	Dentists' Services (d)	Prescribed Drugs (e)	Total
	General and Allied Special (b)	Mental	Tuber- erculosis (c)	Government of Canada				
1957	1.29	0.27	0.09	0.14	1.78	0.83	0.26	0.31
1958	1.36	0.29	0.09	0.14	1.88	0.88	0.27	0.33
1959	1.50	0.31	0.08	0.14	2.03	0.90	0.27	0.36
1960	1.70	0.32	0.08	0.14	2.24	0.94	0.29	0.35
1961	1.85	0.35	0.07	0.16	2.43	0.99	0.30	0.34
1962	1.92	0.34	0.07	0.17	2.49	0.96	0.29	0.33
1963	2.00	0.36	0.06	0.16	2.58	1.00	0.30	0.34
1964	2.04	0.37	0.05	0.15	2.61	1.00	0.30	0.34
1965	2.08	0.39	0.05	0.15	2.66	0.99	0.29	0.36
1966	2.15	0.39	0.04	0.13	2.72	0.99	0.29	0.35
1967	2.32	0.43	0.04	0.13	2.92	1.05	0.29	0.37
1968(f)	2.49	0.45	0.04	0.13	3.10	1.10	0.30	0.36
1969(f)	2.61	0.45	0.04	0.12	3.22	1.17	0.30	0.35

(see footnotes on Table 1)

TABLE 5
EXPENDITURE ON PERSONAL HEALTH CARE, (a) CANADA, 1957 - 1969,
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY CATEGORY

Year	Hospital Services				Physicians' Services (d)	Dentists' Services (d)	Prescribed Drugs (e)	Total
	General and Allied Special (b)	Mental	Tubercu- losis (c)	Government of Canada				
1957	40.4	8.4	3.0	4.3	56.1	25.9	8.1	9.9
1958	40.4	8.6	2.7	4.2	56.0	26.3	7.9	9.8
1959	42.1	8.6	2.3	3.9	57.0	25.2	7.7	10.1
1960	44.4	8.4	2.2	3.7	58.7	24.6	7.6	9.1
1961	45.5	8.5	1.8	4.0	59.8	24.5	7.4	8.4
1962	47.1	8.4	1.6	4.1	61.2	23.6	7.1	8.2
1963	47.3	8.5	1.5	3.8	61.1	23.6	7.1	8.1
1964	48.0	8.6	1.2	3.6	61.5	23.4	7.0	8.1
1965	48.4	8.9	1.1	3.4	61.8	23.0	6.8	8.5
1966	49.5	9.1	1.0	3.1	62.6	22.7	6.6	8.1
1967	50.3	9.4	0.9	2.8	63.3	22.7	6.2	7.9
1968(f)	51.2	9.2	0.8	2.6	63.8	22.7	6.1	7.4
1969(f)	51.9	8.9	0.7	2.5	64.0	23.2	5.9	6.9

(see footnotes on Table 1)

TABLE 6

EXPENDITURE ON PERSONAL HEALTH CARE, (a) CANADA, 1957 - 1969,
INDEX OF AMOUNTS, (AVERAGE OF 1957 TO 1959 TAKEN AS 100)

Year	Hospital Services				Physicians' Services (d)	Dentists' Services (d)	Prescribed Drugs (e)	Total
	General and Allied Special (b)	Mental	Tuberculosis (c)	Government of Canada				
1957	89	88	103	94	90	91	93	90
1958	97	100	100	101	98	101	99	99
1959	114	112	97	105	112	109	108	111
1960	134	123	101	112	129	118	120	124
1961	152	136	91	133	145	130	128	137
1962	170	145	89	147	161	136	133	148
1963	191	164	92	154	179	151	150	166
1964	213	183	85	160	199	165	162	182
1965	240	213	84	166	223	182	175	173
1966	277	243	84	171	255	202	193	186
1967	320	286	84	174	293	229	205	230
1968 (f)	374	322	88	188	339	263	234	261
1969 (f)	428	353	94	201	384	304	253	299
								338

(see footnotes on Table 1)

TABLE 7 (a) CANADA, 1957 - 1969,
EXPENDITURE ON PERSONAL HEALTH CARE,
INDEX OF EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (AVERAGE OF 1957 TO 1959 TAKEN AS 100)

Year	Hospital Services				Physicians' Services (d)	Dentists' Services (d)	Prescribed Drugs (e)	Total
	General and Allied Special (b)	Mental	Tuber- culosis (c)	Government of Canada				
1957	91	91	105	97	92	93	95	93
1958	97	100	100	101	98	101	99	99
1959	112	110	95	102	110	106	106	109
1960	129	117	97	107	124	113	114	119
1961	142	127	85	125	136	121	120	128
1962	157	134	82	135	148	125	122	137
1963	173	148	83	139	162	137	135	150
1964	189	162	75	141	176	147	143	161
1965	209	185	73	144	194	158	152	177
1966	237	208	72	146	218	172	165	159
1967	268	239	70	145	245	192	171	174
1968 (f)	308	265	72	155	279	217	192	185
1969 (f)	347	287	77	163	312	247	205	275

(see Footnotes on Table 1)

TABLE 8

POPULATION ON JULY 1, AND GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AT MARKET PRICES, CANADA 1957 - 1969

Year	Population, July 1st ^(a) (in thousands)	Gross National Product at Market Prices ^(b) (millions of dollars)
1957	16,677	32,907
1958	17,120	34,094
1959	17,522	36,266
1960	17,909	37,775
1961	18,271	39,080
1962	18,614	42,353
1963	18,964	45,465
1964	19,325	49,783
1965	19,678	54,897
1966	20,050	61,421
1967	20,441	65,608
1968	20,772	71,454
1969	21,089	78,099

(a) Estimates, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

(b) "National Income and Expenditure Accounts, 1926 - 1968", pp. 26 - 27; and ibid., "Preliminary Fourth Quarter and Annual 1969", p. 22; Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

Appendix - Scope and Methodology

Scope

Certain expenses that, although necessary for health care, are not incurred on behalf of individuals, have been excluded. Among these are expenses for buildings, research, administration, and training of personnel and for public health activities concerning air, water, sewage, contagious-disease control, and food inspection. Expenses for certain other forms of personal health care had to be omitted because data were not available. Among these are care in nursing homes, school health services, and treatment in certain clinics for special disorders (mental disorders, cancer, arthritis, and rheumatism). Also excluded are expenditures on appliances (except dentures that dentists supply as part of their service) and on medicines sold without prescription. On the other hand, some items that do not directly pertain to personal health care are included. Thus, for instance, hospital care includes the cost of the training of nurses in hospitals, and the income of physicians includes fees for examinations on behalf of employers and insurance agencies.

Hospital Services

"General and allied special" hospitals include public and private general hospitals, maternity hospitals, and hospitals for chronic diseases and for convalescents; excluded are psychiatric institutions, tuberculosis sanatoria, and all hospitals of the government of Canada. The figures represent the operating expenses of these hospitals excluding capital costs, but including depreciation charged. The public general and allied special hospitals in this group (budget-review hospitals) provide annual statements of expenses to the Department through provincial authorities. For the private general and allied special hospitals (contract hospitals) figures reported and included represent only the amounts that provincial hospital-insurance authorities paid them for treating patients.

The figures for years before 1961 are based on financial statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the public hospitals, and on estimates for the private hospitals.

Expenditure data for tuberculosis sanatoria and for public mental hospitals are derived from annual publications of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and those for the private mental hospitals are estimates. The group "mental hospitals" includes also those classed by the D.B.S. as psychiatric hospitals, hospitals for emotionally disturbed children, hospitals for alcohol and drug addicts, psychiatric institutions for the aged and senile, and hospitals for epileptics.

Expenditures by hospitals operated by the Departments of National Health and Welfare and of Veterans Affairs are obtained from "Public accounts of Canada" and converted from fiscal year to calendar year. Estimates for the expenditures of the hospitals of the Department of National Defence are incorporated only for the years 1961 to 1969,

and are based on information received from that Department and on the operating costs of other hospitals of similar size. In the figures for 1957 to 1960 they were omitted.

The four classes of hospital are administrative rather than functional categories. Thus, services of general hospitals include treatment of psychiatric patients in their psychiatric units and general wards, as well as the treatment of patients with tuberculosis in special units. Most mental hospitals care for some patients without mental disorders, and a few mental hospitals have tuberculosis units. Tuberculosis sanatoria have been admitting more and more patients with diseases other than tuberculosis. The hospitals of the government of Canada also treat many psychiatric patients and patients with tuberculosis.

Physicians' Services

Physicians' services represent fees earned by physicians in private practice. The figures are taken from "Earnings of Physicians in Canada", 1957 - 1965 and 1958 - 1968 (Department of National Health and Welfare), and from unpublished data. The methodology is explained in these publications.

Dentists' Services

Similarly, dentists' services represent earnings of dentists from private practice; the data are from "Earnings of Dentists in Canada 1959 - 1965" (Department of National Health and Welfare), where the method of calculation is explained, and from unpublished data.

Drugs

"Prescription sales of retail pharmacies" for 1967 have been derived from a survey of all retail pharmacies by this Department, which yielded a response of 76 per cent. The questionnaire sought data on total sales and on the amount of sales on prescription. For other years, the data are those published by the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association.

Drug figures in all years exclude pharmaceuticals provided by hospitals, physicians, and dentists; these are part of hospital expenditures and of the gross earnings of physicians and dentists.

